

THE LEMON IN THE TEA.

It is a Survival From Very Ancient Chinese Methods.

Whence the slices of lemon with the tea in Russia?

Okakura Kakuzo, a Japanese artist and critic, writing in the International Quarterly, says they point to a survival from very ancient Chinese methods, when tea leaves "were steamed, crushed in a mortar, made into a cake and boiled together with rice, ginger, salt, orange peel, spices, milk and sometimes with onions!"

Okakura tells also of the work of Luwuh, the poet, who in the eighth century became the first apostle of tea and wrote in three volumes and ten chapters the "Chinking," or "Holy Scripture of Tea." Luwuh instituted the code of tea and is become the tutelary god of Chinese merchants of the east.

According to this master, the mountain spring furnishes the best water, then come river water and plain spring water. There are three stages of boiling. The cake tea is roasted before the fire "until it becomes soft, like a baby's arm," and is shredded into powder between pieces of fine paper. Salt is put in the first boil, the tea in the second. At the third boil a dipperful of cold water is poured into the kettle to settle the tea and revive "the youth of the water." Then the beverage is poured into cups.

It was of such a beverage that Lu-tung, another poet, wrote: "The first cup moistens my lips and throat, the second cup breaks my loneliness, the third cup searches my barren entrails but to find therein some 5,000 volumes of odd ideographs. The fourth cup raises a slight perspiration—all the wrong of life passes away through my pores. At the fifth cup I am purified; the sixth cup calls me to the realm of the immortals. The seventh cup—ah, but I could take no more!"

"Tea began as a medicine and ended as a beverage." Also it has had rituals, ceremonies and philosophies. In Japan it became "the religion of the art of life," and "the tea room was an oasis in the dreary waste of existence." This was in the fifteenth century, and the philosophy of Zenism which then arose is described as "a cult founded on the adoration of the beautiful among the sordid facts of everyday existence. It implicates purity and harmony, the mystery of mutual charity, the romanticism of the social order."

"Strangely enough," says Okakura, "humanity has so far met in the tea-cup. It is the only Asiatic ceremonial which commands universal respect. The white man has scoffed at our religion and our morals, but has accepted the brown beverage without hesitation. The afternoon tea is now an important function in western society."

Electric Light Bulbs.

While grasping a small incandescent electric lamp one night Professor Sommer, a German scientist, happened to observe that on contact with his hand the bulb of the lamp would show a luminosity comparable with a mist of light, illuminating certain parts of the glass as well as his fingers even before the electric current was completed. This phenomenon could be produced several times by rubbing the electric bulb with the hand. Not all electric bulbs are suitable for the experiment. Those which have been used for some time and which show the well known dark coating of carbon particles are especially apt to fail. After rubbing a new or nearly new lamp containing no metallic conductors strongly on the skin of the forehead or lower arm, to withdraw the lamp suddenly from the skin will cause the bulb to show the luminous phenomenon. Withdrawing the lamp and stopping it suddenly causes its outlines to stand out distinctly illuminated, while in the middle a bright spot is observed.

The Frugal Crow.

A correspondent sends to the Pioneer (Allahabad) the following notes on the fact that a case has been reported of a crow's nest having been found which was made out of telegraph wire: "Anything resembling a twig is pressed into service. In the days of old, before glass stoppered bottles came into use for soda water, many nests were made of the wires used to keep in the corks of such bottles. A nest constructed out of braided bottle wires was once taken in a palm tree outside Madras. Another nest was found composed of bits of tin stolen from the tin bazaar in Madras. One pair of crows constructed a nest out of gold and silver spectacle frames purloined from the factory of Messrs. Lawrence & Mayo in Bombay. The materials for this nest, of which the value was 400 rupees, were stolen by the wily crows during the luncheon hour. It was noticed that the spectacle frames were disappearing from the factory in a mysterious manner, but it was some time before the thief was discovered."

Seeing and Believing.

"You don't agree, then, that 'seeing is believing'?"
"Not much! I see some people every day that I never could believe."—Philadelphia Ledger.

A WOMAN WITH A WILL.

The Way Jessie Bartlett Davis Once Collected Her Salary.

Jessie Bartlett Davis was a woman of indomitable will and with a stock of self confidence born of a healthy outdoor life. When not engaged in theatrical life her entire time was devoted to outdoor pursuits. On her ranch in California she tamed and rode bronchos, herded cattle and sheep and attended to her chickens with equal facility. This combined to make her a good business woman and with the muscular activity to back it.

Mrs. Davis was once engaged to sing in a vaudeville company in New York city. The manager of the theater was famous for his negligence in meeting demands of performers whom he had engaged, and, in fact, there were ugly rumors about checks bearing his signature being returned from the bank with the ominous words "No funds" written across their faces.

At the conclusion of her week's engagement Mrs. Davis received a check for her salary. That was Saturday night, and it was an open secret to everybody that she had engaged passage on a steamship leaving the following Wednesday for Europe, where she had planned to take a long rest. The proprietor of the Broadway hotel where she was stopping obligingly cashed the check. It was returned to him Tuesday afternoon as worthless.

Mrs. Davis took back the repudiated paper and smiled grimly. "I will make it all right this evening," she said. Armed with a stout cane she went to the manager's office that evening, the stick serving as excuse for a limp due to a "slight sprain," she announced. The manager received her with evident embarrassment and listened to the story of the check told quietly and in moderate language.

"It was a mistake on the part of his bookkeeper," he explained. The stupid fellow should have known that the manager's account in that particular bank had been closed out long ago. But if Mrs. Davis would wait a few minutes he would give her a check on another bank which would be honored without fail.

But Mrs. Davis was not accepting checks. She was to leave for London the next morning and nothing but the hard, cold cash would satisfy her. The manager was obdurate and Mrs. Davis politely insisted. Then it developed into a wordy war, and Mrs. Davis arose with the cane in hand. Handling it like a fiddle, she passed the ferrule lightly through the glass door of the manager's office. Another pass and the ferrule broke one of the window panes. The clatter of glass brought a half dozen employees to the spot. The manager danced around as if on a hot stove and begged her to desist. The scandal, he said, would ruin him. By way of reply Mrs. Davis punctured another window.

One of the employees, who was a relative of the manager, rushed forward to disarm her. The cane circled in the air, and the man retreated nursing a big welt across the back of his head. The audience was just entering the theater and the crashing of glass caused many to stop and conjecture the cause. Mrs. Davis, smiling with the utmost good nature, moved to the other side of the office and gazed critically at the glass of a large picture—the manager's favorite possession.

"Stop!" he almost shouted. "You shall have your money." A messenger was dispatched to the box office with an order. He returned in a few minutes with a huge roll of bills, which Mrs. Davis carefully counted and stowed away. Then, bidding the manager a smiling good night, she swept out of the office and to her hotel, where the bad check was redeemed and added to her collection of souvenirs of her experiences on the stage.—New York Press.

The Pole Star.

We will try to give you some idea of the distance that separates us from the pole star. As you know, light travels at the rate of about 186,000 miles a second—more than seven times round the earth while you are saying "John Robinson" slowly. Well, suppose that a ray of light, traveling at this terrific speed of a million miles in less than five and a half seconds, had started from the polar star on its journey to the earth at the moment of your birth that particular ray will not reach you until you are more than halfway between your thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh birthdays. When you look on the pole star you see it not as it is today, but as it was about fifty years ago.

An Australian Treat.

A treat in an Australian wilderness camp is thus described by an explorer: "On our way down, of course, it was necessary to stop at McLeod's camp to get something to clear the bronchial tubes. There was one great Scotchman among the party, who said, when I asked him what his poison was, 'Well, I'll just take a tin of fruit.' He had a tin of pineapple. Now, the price of preserved fruit at that time and in such a place was something to make you sit up, so that Scotchman scored."

RED AND GRAY SQUIRRELS.

The Males of Both Species Are Incorrigible Fighters.

A very quarrelsome disposition has the chickaree, or American red squirrel, and there are continual fights between it and its cousin the gray squirrel. These fights seldom end in a decided victory for either side. The males of both species are incorrigible fighters. It is no unusual sight to see a couple of red or gray squirrels come tumbling from some lofty limb so locked in each other's embrace as to appear almost like one animal.

Though the shock of striking the ground separates them, it is for a moment only. They immediately clinch again and continue to roll over and over, fighting fiercely until one breaks away, only to be followed by the other, who keeps up a running fight for some distance until he feels certain that he has so punished the conquered one that he will not dare return.

Red squirrels by their greater agility and quickness can worst a gray squirrel every time in a running fight, but let them once come to a clinch and the superior size and weight of the gray squirrel are bound to tell.—Chicago News.

The "Thin Rice" of the Chinese.

The very first thing that a Chinaman takes when he gets up in the morning is a bowl of hot "congee," or, as he calls it, "thin rice." This is simply rice boiled away to a thinish drinkable consistency. If allowed to cool it would thicken into paste. Some care is required to make it properly. "If the water is visible and not the rice," says Yuan Mei, "that is not congee. If the rice is visible and not the water, that is not congee either. The two must be indistinguishably blended before you can call the result congee."

Not Negotiable.

"Do you ever look back, Blobs, on the days of your boyhood, the dear faces in the home, the moon shining on the river, the hills, the valleys, the"—

"No," interrupted Blobs brusquely, "it doesn't pay!"

"Doesn't pay what?"

"Dividends."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Satisfaction.

"Too bad about Dingman going wrong, isn't it?"

"Yes, but I haven't been grieving much about it. My wife always held him up to me as a model."—Detroit Tribune.

A Common Trait.

"I have noticed," says the Hon. Alex. Appleby, "that everybody who has a tooth pulled says it was one of the most stubborn the dentist ever extracted."—Kansas City Times.

Two Views.

The Lover—There is nothing sweeter than making up a lovers' quarrel. Married Cynic—Well, it's different after you're married. Then it generally means millinery.

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